



This Washington Post-Miller Center poll was conducted by telephone September 6-12, 2013, among a random national sample of 1,509 adults, including landline and cell phone-only respondents. Results have a three percentage point error margin. Sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. Overall, would you say you are satisfied or dissatisfied with [ITEM]? Would that be very satisfied/dissatisfied, or somewhat satisfied/dissatisfied?

a. The country's economic situation

	----- Satisfied -----			---- Dissatisfied ---			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
9/12/13	22	4	18	73	27	46	5
2/9/11	16	3	13	82	30	52	2
8/13/02*	38	6	32	58	33	25	4
2/4/97	52	8	44	46	31	15	2

*2002 and previous: Hart Research for AFL-CIO: "the economic situation in the country today."

b. Your own personal financial situation

	----- Satisfied -----			---- Dissatisfied ---			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
9/12/13	61	25	36	37	17	19	3
2/9/11	57	21	36	41	20	21	3
10/21/10*	69	29	40	28	14	14	2
3/3/09	66	23	43	31	18	13	3

*2010 and previous: Pew Research Center: "your personal financial situation."

2. Would you say you feel (more) financially secure, (less) secure, or about as secure as you felt a few years ago?

	More secure	Less secure	About the same	No opinion
9/12/13	23	48	29	1

3. If you were asked to use one of the following five names for your social class, which would you say you belong in - upper, upper-middle, middle, lower-middle, lower?

	----- Upper class -----				----- Lower class -----			No
	NET	Upper	Upper-middle	Middle	NET	Lower-middle	Lower	op.
9/12/13	18	2	16	42	39	24	16	1
11/02/11	15	1	14	51	30	21	9	3
2/9/11	18	1	17	43	37	26	11	2

4. What do you think is more likely over the next few years in terms of your social class...? (you will move up) or (you will slip backwards)?

	Move up	Slip backwards	(Vol.) Neither Will stay the same	No opinion
9/12/13	45	26	23	6

5. I'm going to read you some possible definitions or descriptions of The American Dream, and for each one I'd like you to tell me if that's very much what you understand The American Dream to mean, or sort of what it means, or not what it means?

9/12/13 - summary table

	Very much	Sort of	Not what it means	No op.
a. To have freedom of choice in how to live one's life	75	18	6	1
b. To be able to become wealthy	29	40	30	1
c. To be able to get a college education	52	33	14	1
d. To own a home	61	28	10	*
e. To do better than one's parents did	54	32	13	1
f. To be rewarded for hard work	68	22	10	1
g. The ability to balance work and family life	56	32	11	1

Trend where available to Oct. 1986 Wall Street Journal poll:

a. To have freedom of choice in how to live one's life

	Very much	Sort of	Not what it means	No opinion
9/12/13	75	18	6	1
10/86	80	16	3	1

b. To be able to become wealthy

	Very much	Sort of	Not what it means	No opinion
9/12/13	29	40	30	1
10/86	39	42	18	1

c. To be able to get a college education

	Very much	Sort of	Not what it means	No opinion
9/12/13	52	33	14	1
10/86	68	26	5	1

d. To own a home

	Very much	Sort of	Not what it means	No opinion
9/12/13	61	28	10	*
10/86	78	18	3	1

e. To do better than one's parents did

	Very much	Sort of	Not what it means	No opinion
9/12/13	54	32	13	1
10/86	61	29	9	1

f and g no trend

6. When you think about The American Dream, is it something which has real meaning to you personally, something which has meaning to others but not to you, or is it just a phrase which doesn't really have meaning to anyone?

	Has meaning to me	Has meaning to others	Has no real meaning to anyone	No opinion
9/12/13	61	18	19	2
10/86*	68	16	13	3

*Wall Street Journal

7. Compared to your parents when they were the age you are now, do you think your own standard of living now is better, about the same, or worse than theirs was?

	Better	About the same	Worse	Not applicable (vol.)	No opinion
9/12/13	54	27	18	1	*
2/9/11*	52	27	19	1	1

*Washington Post-Kaiser-Harvard

8. When your children are the age you are now, do you think their standard of living will be better, about the same, or worse than yours is now?

	Better	About the same	Worse	Not applicable (vol.)	No opinion
9/12/13	39	24	28	6	3
2/9/11*	42	23	28	4	3

*Washington Post-Kaiser-Harvard

9. Which of these statements do you agree with more: (most people who want to get ahead can make it if they're willing to work hard) OR (hard work and determination are no guarantee of success for most people)?

	Get ahead if willing to work hard	Hard work is no guarantee of success	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
9/12/13	65	34	1	1
2/9/11	59	39	1	1
10/3/10	66	32	1	1
9/6/10*	64	33	3	
3/7/06	64	33	3	
12/05	64	33	3	
12/04	68	28	4	
9/00	73	24	3	
8/99	74	23	3	
7/94	68	30	2	

*September 2010 and previous: Pew Research Center; neither/no opinion collapsed

10. What best describes your employment situation today?

	9/12/13
Employed NET	56
Full time	47
Part time	10
Not employed NET	43
Seeking	6
Not seeking	1
Student	5
Retired	19
Disability	6
Homemaker	6
No opinion	*

11. Thinking about the past few years, would you say it has become (easier) or (harder) for people like you to [INSERT ITEM] or hasn't that changed much?

9/12/13 - Summary table*

	Easier	Harder	Hasn't changed	No opinion
a. Get ahead financially	7	66	26	1

b. Afford health care	8	64	26	2
c. Pay for college	6	77	11	5
d. Find good jobs	5	74	16	4
e. Find decent, affordable housing	15	54	26	5
f. (AMONG PARENTS) Provide for your children	10	58	31	*
g. (AMONG NOT RETIRED) Save for retirement	6	71	20	3

*Item a,f,g ask all, half sample b,c and other half sample d,e

12. Which one of the following do you think is most important for getting ahead financially - (hard work), (friends and connections), (education), (growing up wealthy), (natural ability) or something else (SPECIFY)?

	9/12/13
Hard work	34
Education	30
Friends and connections	13
Growing up wealthy	11
Natural ability	5
All/combination of things (vol.)	3
Something else	3
No opinion	1

13. To the extent that you have not gotten ahead financially as much as you would like, which of the following do you see as the biggest obstacle - (your education), (where you live), (your job), (your level of debt), (your health), (your age), or something else?

	9/12/13
Your education	19
Your age	14
Your job	10
Where you live	9
Your health	9
Your level of debt	8
Government/laws (vol.)	2
Economy (vol.)	2
Other personal concerns (vol.)	2
Taxes (vol.)	1
Have gotten ahead as much as would like (vol.)	6
Something else	14
No opinion	4

14. For each item I name, please tell me how important it is to help America compete with other countries economically. Is [INSERT] one of the single most important issues, very important, somewhat important or less important than that?

9/12/13 - Summary table*

	--- More important ---			-- Less important --			No
	NET	Single most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opin.
a. improving public schools	80	16	64	19	14	5	1
b. government investment in new technology	45	5	40	54	37	16	1
c. reducing the federal budget deficit	70	15	56	27	20	7	3
d. government investment in roads,							

water systems, the energy grid and other services	58	7	50	39	30	9	3
e. government investment in the manufacturing industry	50	6	45	47	31	15	3
f. becoming less dependent on foreign oil	71	15	55	27	23	5	2

*Half sample a-c, other half sample d-e.

15. Which of the following would be the single most important thing to help you better achieve your version of the American Dream: (access to job training), (access to affordable college education), (affordable health care), (low taxes), (affordable housing) or something else?

	9/12/13
Low taxes	28
Access to affordable college education	22
Affordable health care	18
Access to job training	8
Affordable housing	8
Less government regulation (vol.)	1
All/combination of things (vol.)	2
Something else	9
None/Nothing	1
No opinion	4

16. To the extent that it has become harder to find good paying jobs in the United States than in the past, how much blame does each of the following deserve for that? Do you blame (INSERT) a lot, some, only a little, or not at all?

9/12/13 - Summary table*

	-- A lot/Some --			-- Little/Not at all --			No
	NET	A lot	Some	NET	Little	Not at all	opin.
a. The gap in pay between business executives and ordinary workers	76	53	24	22	11	11	2
b. Elected leaders in Washington who don't work together	88	69	19	10	6	4	2
c. American workers not working hard enough to get ahead	58	25	33	40	19	21	2
d. Wall Street financial institutions	66	37	30	29	17	12	4
e. Competition from cheaper labor overseas	79	57	21	20	12	8	1
f. New technology replacing workers	69	33	36	30	17	12	1
g. Rising cost of health care	78	54	24	21	12	9	1
h. Weaker labor unions	48	23	25	48	17	30	4
i. High taxes and regulations on business	74	46	28	24	15	9	2
j. Fewer federal and state government jobs	51	23	28	47	23	24	2
k. Companies refusing to invest profits in new jobs	69	39	30	29	15	14	3
l. Lack of government support for small businesses	71	41	30	26	15	11	4

*Half sample a-f, other half sample g-l

17. Do you ever worry that your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and bills? (IF WORRY) Would you say that you have worries like this all of the time, most of the time, some of the time or just now and then?

	----- Worry -----							
	NET	All of the time	Most of the time	Some of the time	Now and then	DK	Don't worry	No opinion
9/12/13	65	19	14	18	13	*	35	*
8/1971	48	8	10	18	12	*	52	-

Question 18 held for release.

19. Are you currently married, living with a partner, separated, divorced, widowed, or have you never been married?

	9/12/13
Married	51
Living with a partner	7
Separated	5
Divorced	11
Widowed	7
Never been married	19
No opinion	*

Questions 20 and 21 held for release.

22. (AMONG EMPLOYED) Would you say that you earn...Much less than you deserve, less than you deserve, what you deserve, more than what you deserve or much more than you deserve?

	9/12/13	6/25/00*
NET Earn less than you deserve	58	57
Much less than you deserve	17	13
Less than you deserve	41	44
What you deserve	36	36
NET Earn more than you deserve	6	3
More than what you deserve	4	3
Much more than you deserve	2	*
Never worked (vol.)	*	NA
No opinion	*	4

*General Social Survey

22a. (AMONG NOT EMPLOYED) Thinking about your last job, would you say that you earned much less than you deserved, less than you deserved, what you deserved, more than what you deserved or much more than you deserved?

	9/12/13	6/25/00*
NET Earned less than you deserved	51	50
Much less than you deserved	13	18
Less than you deserved	38	32
What you deserved	41	34
NET Earned more than you deserved	5	2
More than what you deserved	3	2
Much more than you deserved	2	*
Never worked (vol.)	2	4
No opinion	1	10

*General Social Survey.

23. (AMONG EMPLOYED) In the next five years, how likely is it that you will (INSERT)? Would you say it is very likely, somewhat likely, not too likely or not at all likely?

	----- Likely -----			----- Not likely -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	op.
a. receive a significant raise in pay at your current job	42	17	25	56	27	29	1
b. find a new job that pays more	43	22	21	56	23	33	1
c. keep your current job and pay	75	47	27	24	12	12	1

24. (AMONG EMPLOYED) How much, if at all, does your current job allow you to use your skills and talents? Would you say a lot, somewhat, only a little, or not at all?

	--- A lot/Somewhat ---			----- A little/None -----			No
	NET	A lot	Somewhat	NET	Only a little	Not at all	opinion
9/12/13	87	63	24	13	9	4	*

Trend among employed adults age 45-74:

	--- A lot/Somewhat ---			----- A little/None -----			No
	NET	A lot	Somewhat	NET	Only a little	Not at all	opinion
9/12/13	89	64	25	11	8	2	*
6/30/02*	92	71	21	8	6	2	*

*AARP

25a. (AMONG NOT RETIRED) Does having enough savings for retirement worry you a lot, a little, or not at all at the present time?

	A lot	A little	Not at all	No opinion
9/12/13	45	33	21	1
10/19/00*	33	41	26	-

*Among registered voters. Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation-Harvard University "how worried are you about..."

25b. (AMONG EMPLOYED) Does losing your job because of the economy worry you a lot, a little, or not at all at the present time?

	A lot	A little	Not at all	No opinion
9/12/13	32	30	38	*
3/14/02*	19	30	51	*
7/18/01	19	27	53	1
10/15/98**	18	25	57	*
7/9/92	28	27	45	*
6/10/82***	31	25	44	-
3/10/82	29	22	49	-
12/4/81	29	22	49	-
9/17/81	24	25	50	-
5/12/81	28	23	49	-
1/7/81	27	23	49	-
10/8/78	31	23	46	-
6/5/78	29	25	46	-
5/12/75	29	25	47	-

*7/18/01 and 3/14/02 Time/CNN/Harris Interactive phone surveys.

**7/9/92 and 10/15/98: Time/CNN/Yankelovich and Time/Yankelovich, Skelly and White.

***6/10/82 and earlier: Among registered voters who are employed male/female household heads and employed wives

26. (AMONG NOT RETIRED) In the past 12 months, have you taken training to keep your skills and knowledge up to date or learn new skills?

Yes No No opinion

9/12/13	50	50	*
2/9/11	49	51	*

26a. (AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN TRAINING) Have these new skills allowed you to earn more money, or don't you think it's made much difference?

	Has allowed to earn more money	Hasn't made much difference	No opinion
9/12/13	26	72	2

26/26a NET:

----- Have taken training -----						
	NET	Allowed to earn more	Hasn't made much diff.	No op.	Have not taken training	No opinion
9/12/13	50	13	36	1	50	*

27. Are colleges doing enough to prepare students to find jobs in today's economy, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
9/12/13	33	53	14

Question 28 held for release.

29. Please tell me how good of a job [INSTERT] does in offering real solutions to help the middle class - a very good job, fairly good, not too good or not good at all?

9/12/13 - summary table

	----- Good -----			----- Not good -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	
a. The Democratic Party	40	8	33	55	26	29	5
b. The Republican Party	32	7	26	62	30	32	5
c. Barack Obama	44	13	31	52	20	32	4

901. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as (a Democrat), (a Republican), an independent or what?

	Democrat	Republican	Independent	Other (vol.)	No opinion
9/12/13	29	22	39	6	4

*** END ***